

Education Worker Central Bargaining Table Update May 3, 2023

OSSTF/FEESO met with representatives from the government and the Council of Trustees' Associations (CTA) on May 3 at the Education Worker central bargaining table.

OSSTF/FEESO is committed to reaching a collective agreement and are bargaining in good faith, but so far, the government is entrenched in their position.

Earlier this week, the Minister of Education said the government wants education unions to accept private mediation to get a deal more quickly. However, despite the best efforts of OSSTF/FEESO to engage with the government and the CTA throughout the bargaining process on the important issues facing Ontario's schools, the other side has thus far refused to seriously engage in discussions around possible solutions to these issues, including supports for students and the serious staffing and retention issues that boards across the entire province are facing. These concerns must be addressed at the bargaining table.

Currently, there are still many important matters that need to be negotiated. OSSTF/FEESO encourages the government to focus on presenting meaningful proposals rather than remaining fixed in their positions and unwilling to provide the necessary investments needed to improve learning conditions for students and working conditions for our Members.

Given the other side's inflexibility, the Minister's comments to the media on Monday are not constructive and risk confusing and misinforming the public, since private mediation is a tool best used when the parties at the table are willing to move off their positions.

Also unhelpful is the government's pattern of imposing new regulations and legislation on educators and students without proper consultation, such as with Bill 98, *Better Schools and Students Outcomes Act*. President Littlewood will be presenting our numerous concerns with this legislation before the Standing Committee on Social Policy next week.

OSSTF/FEESO will continue to push back against this kind of misinformation by providing accurate data about this government's ongoing short-changing and underfunding of public education.

We will also continue to provide updates to Members, and we encourage all Members to remain vocal in their communities and on social media regarding the failures of this government to properly invest in public education.

You can find general bargaining information on the [Bargaining 101 page](#) on the OSSTF/FEESO Update webpage as well as an [article on logging into myOSSTF](#) and ensuring your contact details are up to date.

Recent Media Coverage:

[Ontario education minister wants teachers to accept private mediation](#)

The Bargaining Bulletins are now available on the *myOSSTF* section of the OSSTF/FEESO website. Please check *myOSSTF* for updates.